February 7, 1970

Dear Dick,

Your ~~X~~ 2/4/70 arrived today and I was overjoyed at the contents for it was a great boost to me.

Certainly, you have received more criticisms for your excellent memo on 399 than you have praise. This is wrong, and please allow me to appologize. I mentioned the credit thing academically, I suppose. Your memo is a great contribution to our understanding of 399. I surely did not mean to put you down by what I said although now I see where it could have had the wrong effect--please excuse.

As far as crediting your work in my writings, I have every intention of doing it unless you flatly object. I have come to think of credit as more of a moral obligation than a mechanical process in writing. It would be absolutely unfair for me to stake a claim in all of your fine ideas, and I would not think of depriving you the proper accredation. Same for Harold. As I write my LHO chapter now (and I am working furiously on it), I am constantly citing Harold for the great foundations he laid in WWI especially.

Jacketed Bullets: As far as head fragments go, I concur but must also remind you of some other things that bear. Take the 6.5mm one embedded in the entrance hole in the back of the head. From a 399? I would think not. Or the fact that metal fragments were embedded in the 3cm. exit hole on that skull fragment. As Fillinger told me, that invariably would make him think of an unjacketed projectile.

What you say about fragments in soft tissue from a military bullet is such an absolute gem that I'd like to cut it out and frame it. You said that only under two conditions can that happen. One was with the 5.6 military round used in the M-16 in Vietnam which shoots a high velocity but tiny bullet. Well, my good man, this is exactly what Fillinger told me. He conceeded the "possibility" of ~~XXXX~~ a 399 breaking down in soft tissue, and then I asked him if he ever saw it happen. As you say, I fell for the old "ask about tractors-answer about racing cars" trick. Here is what he said:

> ...this is a principle with which the AR 15 and 16 are used in Vietnam. They use a small caliber high velocity bullet which frequently fragments, and X-ray studies...in hospital cases brought back and on display at a recent AMA meeting as a matter of fact showing fine fragmentation in chest and shoulder wounds I remember specifically of persons who had been struck with small fire, and the jackets from these bullets would break down on contact with the skin, and they would be dispersed throughout the musculature of the ~~XXXXX~~ thorax.

As I said before, Fil. confirms everything you say. Well, no bullets or X-rays for you to eat.

Backward movement: Your comments are good. My rubber-band soul has a tendency to stretch too much to one side with application of the proper tension. Like I said, I don't dispute the movementns or the source of shots that they indicate. But what do you say to the possibility of two shooters over 200 ft. apart hitting a living, moving target within a 3 inch radius at the most, 1/18th second apart? Not arguing either way, I'm wary of a possiblity like that, but who knows?

DEAR DICK,

Your comments on Fil. at the bottom of p. 2 of your 2/4 are very wise. Forensic pathologists do definately think that in this field, nothing is impossible. And remember too that with the assass, they have

September 3, 1970

to be spoon fed just about everything. It's really amazing. They all know how poor the medical evidence is, how corrupt all these peoplle were, how incompetant the docs were, yet they allow themselves to be burdened by their conclusions even when they acknowledge that no one should believe the conclusions(of the autopsy report, that is.)

While I am now too busy to read the exec. sessions, if it is not too heavy to mail, I'll ask for it later when I have time. I wouldlike the NO papers of which you spoke unless you have some need for them now.

I can't cry over the milk I spilled into Nichols' hands, of course. However, I wrote him telling him that he could only use my stuff in open court--certainly not for publication. Harold filled me in on what Nichols has been up to and it it disillusioned me.

I got Harold's base photo. I am convinced that the area he says is missing is missing, but it is hard to communicate unless in person. Neverthess, if he can get an exact duplicate of it taken now, we will know for sure. In reference to checking is the grainy substance at the base is gunpowder, would it help to have color pix? I just wrote the Archives asking for color slides of some of the ballistics stuff. I also got the Archives copy of Moorman which is interesting. I think it is one of the first to come out of Dallas. If you want to see it (if you didn't see it at Harold's) then tell me and I'll send it to you.

On the letter enclosed to you and Harold, I'll add that I think I've resolved the problem. However, I'd welcome your comments unpromted to see if they add anything. I also wrote the Archives for any stuff on Gloria Calvery. She is really the missing link here.

By the way, do you want your Finck NO testimony back soon? Please tell me for I've been holding on to it for when I go back to writing about the autopsy which should be soon (soon as I finish my LHO chapter).

Good luck.

Still,

cc. Weisberg